

## Introduction

In June 2010, fourteen Highland organisations across the public, private and voluntary sectors signed up to a joint regional Climate Change Declaration committing to:

- Measure their carbon footprint and reduce it by 3% per year
- Provide an annual update of progress
- Share information and work with partners in Highland to promote good practice.
- Encourage businesses and communities to take action.

The full declaration and list of signatories is found on [www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk)

The following presents the first annual report of partnership progress towards the commitments contained within the Highland Climate Change Declaration for 2010/11.

## The Process

The declaration was developed by the Highland Environment Forum, a theme group within the Highland Community Planning Partnership. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June, 2010, 14 organisations signed up to the Highland Climate Change Declaration at a partnership event held at Great Glen House (SNH headquarters) in Inverness. Signing the declaration committed partners to carrying out a number of activities including measuring and reducing their carbon emissions and reporting back progress.

One full year after the initial signing of the declaration signatories were asked to provide an annual progress report. A self-assessment matrix (adapted from Carbon Trusts' CMAT tool for public bodies) was created and framed around the commitments signatories had signed up to. Organisations scored their progress against the five key headings in the matrix.

## Results

The self assessment matrix used is shown in **Table 1** and the results by organisation in **Table 2** below. It should be noted that scores are not externally validated so they are not strictly comparable, but they do provide a summary of how each organisation has assessed their performance internally. The point of the self assessment is to identify areas for improvement and not to create a league table.

From the self assessment matrix it can be seen that collectively the strongest area of performance was "Acknowledging Climate Change" which demonstrates that Highland organisations are committed to tackling the issue and echoes the results of the research undertaken to date. The weakest area was around "Staff Training".

Organisations were asked to provide details of their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions savings in 2010/11 including the scope of measurement, actual tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> saved, and overall % savings. The results are demonstrated in **Table 3** below.

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**Table 1: Matrix used for self-assessment 2010/11**

	Acknowledging Climate Change	Working with Others	Future Plans	Organisation staff/member training	Monitoring
5	<u>Regional</u> and <u>global</u> mitigation and adaptation acknowledged by organisation at <u>corporate</u> level with clear links to the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.	Organisation/group has worked with three or more signatories in the last year; Individuals/ groups/ communities in the wider Highland area <u>and</u> promoted Highland issues out with the Highland Council boundary.	Organisation has an action plan, target and vision beyond 2020.	Formal training on climate change issues is available to all staff/members within the organisation/group.	Emissions monitored and reported internally on a monthly basis with annual progress reported through declaration commitment, promoted to the wider public and shared with relevant stakeholders.
4	<u>Regional</u> climate change mitigation and adaptation issues acknowledged by organisation at <u>corporate</u> level.	Organisation/group has worked with three or more signatories in the last year <u>and</u> other individuals/ groups/ communities in the wider Highland area.	Organisation has a action plan, target and vision up to 2020.	Staff/ member induction on climate change issues; appropriate awareness raising has been introduced selected staff/ members attend <u>formal</u> training.	Emissions monitored and reported internally on a quarterly basis with annual progress reported through declaration commitment.
3	Climate Change issues acknowledged within organisations at <u>corporate</u> level.	Organisation/ group has worked with one or more signatories in the last year on climate related issues.	Organisation/ group has a <u>five</u> year action plan to tackle climate change issues including targets.	Staff/ member induction on climate change issues; appropriate awareness raising has been introduced <u>and</u> selected staff attend informal training.	Emissions monitored and reported annually through declaration commitment.
2	Climate change acknowledged by organisation/group but dealt with in isolation from other organisation/ group functions.	Organisation/ group has agreed in principle to co-operate on climate change issues in Highland but has not worked with signatories in last year.	Organisation/ group has a <u>three</u> year action plan to tackle climate change issues including targets.	Staff/ member induction contains information on climate change and energy/fuel reduction measures.	System for monitoring emissions is being developed to enable baseline to be set.
1	No public acknowledgement beyond the signing of the Highland Climate Change Declaration.	No staff/ member induction includes information on climate change	Organisation/ group has a stated future vision in relation to climate change but no timescale for action.	No staff/ member induction or training around climate change issues.	No current system for monitoring emissions is in place.

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**Table 2: Results from self-assessment exercise by organisation**

Signatory	Score 1-5 ( 1 = worst and 5 =best)					
	Acknowledge Climate Change	Working with others	Future Plans	Organisation staff/ member training	Monitoring	Total
Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA)	5	5	5	5	4	24
Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)	5	5	5	5	4	24
Highland Environment Network (HEN)	5	5	5	4	5	24
Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)	5	5	4	4	5	23
Northern Constabulary	5	5	5	4	4	23
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)	5	3	5	4	5	22
Forestry Commission Scotland	5	3	5	3	5	21
Highland Council	4	5	2	4	4	19
Community Energy Scotland	5	5	5	2	1	18
Highlands and Islands Enterprise	4	3	4	3	4	18
NHS Highland	4	4	3	1	5	17
CIFAL Findhorn	4	5	2	3	3	17
Highland Birchwoods	2	2	4	1	3	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>262</b>
Max Total	70	70	70	70	70	350

## Emerging Issues from CO<sub>2</sub> Assessment

It is apparent from table 3 that there is great variation in the % emissions savings between the different organisations but that no single organisation increased emissions in the period April 2010 to March 2011. Highland organisations also vary greatly in the scope of their reporting. For example, CNPA and the FCS have provided data from vehicles/travel only, whereas HIE and THC have more comprehensive systems in place to monitor carbon emitting activities from a greater proportion of their operations and services.

There is also great variation in the size of each organisation and this is reflected in the actual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions saved. CNPA saved 25.5% CO<sub>2</sub> amounting to 12.4 tonnes, while Highland Council achieved a 1.95% saving that amounted to 1277 tonnes, more than 100 times the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> saved. NHS Highland has an overall CO<sub>2</sub> footprint of 33,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> and Highland Council 64,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>. It is clear that these two organisations are major players due to their size and even modest savings can have a significant impact. Interestingly, neither organisation scored highly on the self-assessment matrix suggesting that the size and nature of the organisations leads to greater challenges. Both NHS Highland and Highland Council have a large estate and attribute the increased heating demand during a prolonged winter for the slower than anticipated progress in emissions reductions in 2010/11.

Not all organisations were able to provide data or only partial/estimated data which suggests that more support and advice is required on the methodologies for measuring and reporting. Many organisations operate only partially in Highland leading to difficulties in presenting data.

Examples of carbon reduction projects in signatory organisations are known but these do not align with the scope of emissions being reported. For example both the CNPA and FCS provided emissions data for travel/vehicles only, yet they have provided information separately on efficiency measures in place within their building estate. This suggests that monitoring systems are not yet in place to quantify emissions from buildings, or that only partial progress is being reported through the declaration. Further clarity can be sought through future discussions.

In gathering the information there emerged an issue around whether to use absolute or relative emissions reductions figures with some organisations offering additional information on changes to operations, or weather adjusted figures. For ease of reporting and to prevent duplicated adjustments the preference should be to measure absolute and non-seasonally adjusted figures.

A final area requiring clarity is the baseline year in which organisations are measuring against. It is not clear from all organisations if the % reductions demonstrated are from 2009/10 (as requested) or from an earlier point in time.



**Table 3: CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reductions by organisations  
 2010/11 - ranked in order of total % emissions savings.**

Organisation	Scope	Tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> saved in 2010/11	% CO <sub>2</sub> saved in 2010/11
Cairngorm National Park Authority (CNPA)	Vehicles	12.4	-25.5%
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	Vehicles, Travel, Air Travel Buildings	46	-13%
Forestry Commission Scotland (CNPA)	Travel	4.35	-8.9%
Scottish Natural Heritage	Vehicles, Travel, Buildings	88	-8.5%
Highlands and Islands Enterprise	Buildings, Waste, Water, Travel	71.16	-5.4%
Northern Constabulary	nr	160	-3.75%
BTCV Scotland	Fuel, Buildings	0.24	-3%
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)	Vehicles, Air Travel,	nr	-3%
CIFAL Findhorn*	Travel, Air Travel, Buildings	0.11	-2.77
The Highland Council	Vehicles, Buildings, Internal waste, Staff Travel, Water Top 100, Street lighting	1277	-2.1%
Highland Environment Network (HEN)	Travel	0.17	n/a baseline year
Highland Birchwoods	Travel, Air Travel, Buildings	0.42	-1%
NHS Highland	Buildings	0	0%
Community Energy Scotland	nr	nr	nr

nr = no data returned.

## Examples of Action

The greatest value that can be added through the declaration will be through the increased opportunities for collaboration and sharing good practice. All organisations provided case study examples of the work they have done to date which are summarised at the end of this document. It can be seen from the feedback received that there are already a number of areas where signatories are working together. It is possible that this list is not comprehensive and that other examples of collaborative working exist and will be drawn out through further discussions. Some signatories provided further detail of their work in reports and it is recommended that these be made accessible online and shared with the public. CIFAL Findhorn is a local signatory with an international remit delivering training programmes and promoting knowledge exchange on sustainability issues worldwide. As such, the organisation has a very high carbon footprint for travel in proportion to their energy use in buildings. To help counteract this, the Director of the organisation has initiated a carbon offsetting scheme by planting trees in her home country of Brazil. This was the only example of carbon offsetting provided by signatories and opens a new area for further collective discussions.

## Examples of Working with Others in 2010/11

### Community Energy Scotland

- Provide advice to community groups in considering the environmental impact of projects in their Community Development Plans.

### Scottish Natural Heritage

- Co-locate with several other public bodies in the Highland area (Crofters commissions, FCS, HIE, CES, SGRPID and SEPA) and are actively looking to do more.
- Research published into the impacts of extreme weather events on SNH properties, reserves and operations and shared in a series of workshops looking at the A9 corridor.

### Northern Constabulary

- Has conducted Shared Service Audits at all Northern Constabulary Premises.
- Share premises with Highland Council, The Scottish Ambulance Service and the Coastguard.

### The Highland Council

- Hosted a public question and answer session as part of the Royal Society of Edinburgh enquiry into Facing up to Climate Change.
- Purchased electric vehicles with the Northern Constabulary through the Scottish Governments Low Carbon vehicle initiative.

### CIFAL Findhorn

- Organised the Highlands International Biodiversity and Climate Change conference highlighting the challenges and opportunities for biodiversity arising from climate change.

### HEN

- Organised the conference “Greening at Grass Roots- Empowering Local Communities” at Fortrose Academy in March 2011.
- Provided Highland Environmental groups with an area to showcase their work and engage with the public at the Belladrum Tartan Heart festival.

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### Other Actions by Organisations

#### CNPA

- Grantown HQ credited with a GOLD award under the Green Tourism Business Scheme.

#### SEPA

- SEPA will be closing its Thurso office in July 2011 and relocate its staff to share a single building with the Scottish Government's Rural Payments and Inspectorate Directorate in Strathbeg House, Thurso. This will result in significant electricity savings.

#### HIE

- Communicate regularly with all staff and include all staff in the consultation process. (This was important during the drafting of HIE's carbon management plan which was approved by the HIE Board and the Carbon Trust in 2011). This allows staff to take ownership of their behaviour, promotes green office practices and provides a platform for green issues which are very important to a large proportion of HIE staff.

### Individual Declaration Pilot

As a current signatory of the declaration the Highland Environment Network (HEN) piloted a project to encourage individuals in Highland to make a pledge to take action to tackle climate change. This project was made possible with funding available from the Climate Challenge Fund. During the Belladrum music festival HEN successfully signed up 110 individuals to their custom made declaration. HEN will now be following up progress with these individuals and report the findings back to the Highland Environment Forum in December 2011. The Forum will then discuss how best to use the findings.

### Promotion

A banner was created to promote the work of the declaration and encourage more organisations to sign-up. It featured at the Highland Environment Networks annual conference, Belladrum Festival, the Euromontana Sustainable Tourism Conference hosted by Highland Council and the Sustainable Scotland Network's annual conference in Edinburgh. It is hoped that partners signed up to the declaration will each take turn in promoting it at their various events.



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## Next Steps

The results of the annual report will be discussed at the next meeting of the Highland Environment Forum in December 2011. It is recommended that the following key priorities be discussed at this meeting:

- Evidence base and challenge for the self-assessment.
- Barriers facing the different organisations and how they can be overcome.
- Unified methodology and scope of emissions calculating.
- Format or template for future reporting and linking with any statutory duties as part of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.
- Further opportunities for partnership working, including training as an area of lower scores on the self assessments.

A small web page about the Highland Climate Change Declaration is hosted on the Highland Council's website but it is recommended that a greater web presence be used, incorporating some of the case studies of best practice provided by partners. As with other regional partnerships, it is recommended that an online forum for sharing best practice be set up. A showcase event is planned to help promote the work of the declaration signatories and encourage others to sign-up.

## Conclusion

The benefit of this partnership arrangement will be where it can add value to existing work underway through increasing joint initiatives and promoting Highland organisations and their efforts to tackle climate change. The process of undertaking the annual reports to date has highlighted some challenges and opportunities to address in future reporting and these issues will be discussed at the next meeting of the Highland Environment Forum.

